

IN THE CLAIMS:

What is claimed is:

1. (Previously Presented) A computing system aiding in the operation diagnostic and maintenance functions of a remote computing devices, the diagnostic system comprising:
 - a plurality of remote computing devices coupled to a network, wherein each said remote computing device runs under a respective first boot image;
 - a process initiator on a server, coupled to a user interface, that allows for the selection of a particular remote computing device from said plurality of remote computing devices;
 - a download director that controls a download of a maintenance boot image to the particular remote computing device via the network;
 - a reboot director connected to initiate a reboot process of the particular remote computing device;
 - a daemon on the server, monitoring the particular remote computing device for the completion of a given task;wherein said process initiator, said download director, and said reboot director are connected such that, upon initiation by said process initiator, said download director downloads a temporary boot image to the particular remote computing device, said reboot director causes the particular remote computing device to reboot using said temporary boot image, and said daemon monitors the remote computing device for completion of a given task associated with the temporary boot image; then upon completion of the given task, said download director downloads said respective first boot image to the particular remote computing device and said reboot director causes the particular remote computing device to reboot using said first boot image.
2. (Original) The system of claim 1, the process initiator further selecting a specific operational mode of the particular remote computing device.
3. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 2, wherein the selection of a specific operational mode results in a download of a particular temporary boot image from among a plurality of boot images.

4. (Original) The system of claim 3, wherein each of the plurality of boot images is operable to perform a particular maintenance or diagnostic task on the particular remote computing device.
5. (Original) The system of claim 3 wherein the plurality of boot images reside on a remote storage media.
6. (Cancelled)
7. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 1 wherein notification of the completion of said task is a signal from the particular remote computing device.
8. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 1 wherein the process initiator receives an input through said user interface that specifies the particular remote computing system.
9. (Original) The system of claim 1 wherein the process initiator is an independent diagnostic program, the independent diagnostic monitor initiating the selection of the particular remote computing device based upon specified criteria, the criteria of the remote system being monitored by the diagnostic program.
- 10-27. (Cancelled)
28. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 1, wherein the daemon monitors the particular remote computing device for completion of the given task by polling the maintenance boot image for update information.
- 29-30. (Cancelled)